

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 4, 6 – 20, 22 – 34, and 36 – 44 were pending in the present application. Claims 1, 13, 15, 29, 31 and 43 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, 14-20, 22, 25-28, 30-34, 36, 39-42 and 44 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 7-8, 13, 23-24, 29, 37-38, and 43 are now pending in the application.

The Examiner indicated claims 7, 8, 23, 24, 37 and 38 have been allowed.

Claims 13, 29, and 43 were objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has accordingly rewritten claims 13, 29, and 43 into independent form.

Claims 1 – 4, 6, 15 – 20, 22, 31 – 34, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sasamoto et al. (USPN 6,442,711, hereinafter “Sasamoto”). In light of the amendments to the claims, Applicant believes this rejection to now be moot.


Claims 9 – 12, 14, 25 – 28, 30, 39 – 42, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasamoto in view of Matthews (USPN 4,532,628). In light of the amendments to the claims, Applicant believes this rejection to now be moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-81600/SJC.

Respectfully submitted,



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